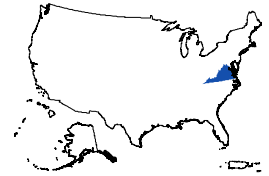


2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

Mr. Robert Spence is a minority part-time farmer who lives within North Landing River Watershed in Chesapeake. During the recent signup of landowners for EQIP within the North Landing River Priority Area, Mr. Spence was contacted as a potential participant. At first he was skeptical of the program because he had never participated in any USDA programs. Current commodity prices, however, forced him to take a second look at not only NRCS programs, but FSA programs as well. By his taking that second look, he was introduced to EQIP.

Mr. Spence will be planting winter cover crops and using pest management and nutrient management on his farm. He also has two water control structures planned that will improve water quality while allowing him to manage the water in this open ditches.

Mr. Spence is enthusiastic about completing his EQIP plan. NRCS has committed to working with him to get conservation on his farm. The educational component will benefit Mr. Spence for years after the contract is completed. NRCS is excited that this knowledge will be shared with others because Mr. Spence involves brothers, nephews, and cousins in his farm operation. It is truly a family affair.

Virginia Summary

Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was popular with Virginia farmers in FY 2000. The initial EQIP allocation of \$2,231,300 was broken into two categories: statewide concerns (\$780,955) and priority areas (\$1,461,245). An additional \$31,012 was later added to the priority areas allocation. Since EQIP began in 1997, 17 priority areas in Virginia have been funded.

Accomplishments

Statewide concerns:

- Applications from 428 landowners were taken and 48 funded (11%)
- 48 contracts were developed for a total cost of \$727,192
- Applications were received on the following resource concerns:
- Grazing – 332 applications; 24 funded (7%)
- Cropland – 17 applications; 17 funded (100%)
- Animal waste – 79 applications; 7 funded (9%)

Priority areas:

- Six priority areas received funding.
- Applications from 222 landowners were taken for an estimated cost of \$2,500,064.
- 124 contracts were funded for a total cost of \$1,482,245.
- Education assistance funds totaled \$43,000.
- 13,708 acres are covered by the 124 new contracts.

Outlook

EQIP applications continue to far exceed funding levels, especially for grazing and animal waste resource concerns. If animal waste regulations continue and another drought occurs, the requests will even go higher. However, funding remains fairly constant at the national level. Many good projects and contracts go unfunded in Virginia. Five new priority areas have been submitted for funding in FY 2001.

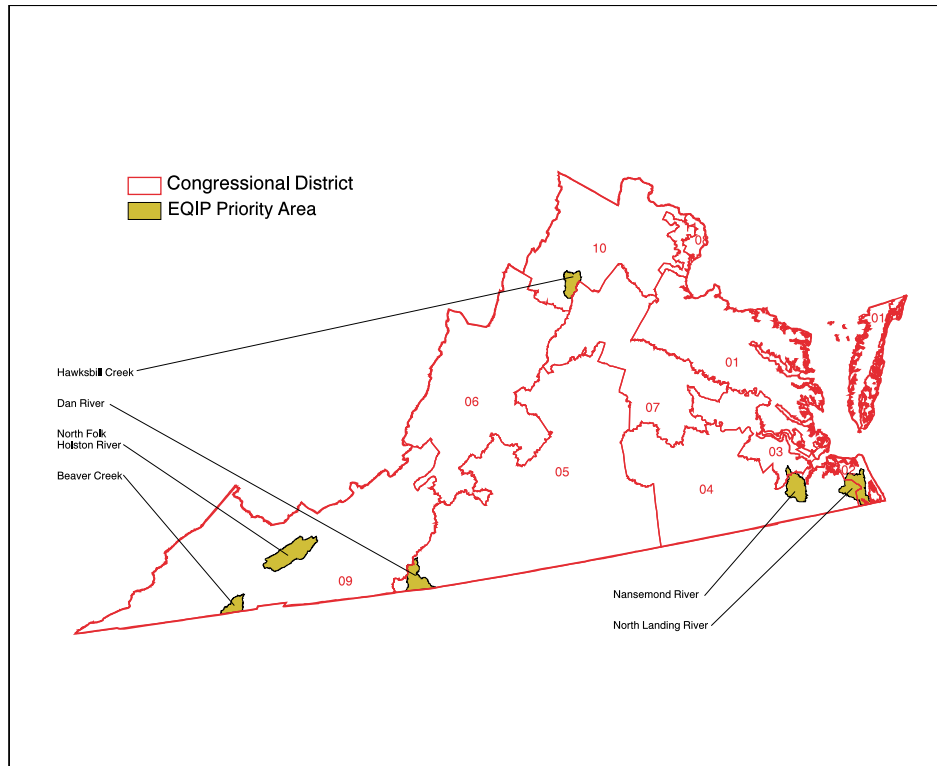
State Contact

Wade Biddix, Program Manager, (804) 287-1675



Mr. Robert Spence's EQIP plan includes winter cover crops as well as pest and nutrient management.

Virginia EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Virginia EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$790,734	52	\$3,517,924	497
District 1	0	0	457,200	26
District 2	132,986	7	132,986	7
District 4	284,662	35	284,662	35
District 5	195,975	17	511,792	31
District 7	0	0	238,368	10
District 9	612,520	51	3,351,816	320
District 10	299,120	14	667,782	29
State Totals	\$2,315,979	176	\$9,893,792	982

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas which may include more than one district. Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.